

PLAIN TALKS

November
1981



THE COVER

The holiday season finds Silsbee local office employees decking the walls with appropriate decorations.

In addition, Gina Collins says they sometimes share a potluck meal in the office to celebrate Thanksgiving and other holidays.

Shown putting up the decorations are (from left to right) Delores West, clerk; Dorothy Lloyd, senior clerk; Mrs. Collins, contact clerk; and Sue Moss, clerk.

Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas

Dear Sirs:

My husband and I are writing this letter to commend one of your employees who recently helped us with the installation of our power lines at Willis, Texas. Larry Mitchell was the representative from the Conroe office of your company who planned the route of the new lines and poles to our lot. From the outset, with every route he plotted, something interfered or someone objected. None of the obstructions were his fault, but in the face of every obstacle he was always patient and courteous in his dealings with us and our neighbors, and was willing to listen to our opinions.

He kept us informed of changes in the situation and even offered to meet us at our lot on his own time when no other arrangement was convenient.

We appreciate his kind service and think more highly of Gulf States Utilities because of it.

Sincerely,
Edward P. Daniel
Cheryl Daniel

Editor's Note: Mitchell is an engineering employee for the Western Division.

Norman R. Lee
Gulf States Utilities
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Lee:

It is a pleasure to write this letter to inform you of the pleasant and courteous manner in which Ms. Nancy Woodrome of the Shareholder Services Section recently handled my problem.

I had a small problem with the Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan. I called the company on the nationwide toll-free number and was greeted by Ms. Woodrome. She was helpful in verifying the current computer data, as well as offering an effective solution to the problem. I am certain that other employees could have handled this situation in the same excellent manner. As it was, it was my luck and good fortune to have Ms. Woodrome assist me.

Please pass on to Ms. Woodrome my appreciation for her assistance.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Gordon A. Krupp
Tacoma, Washington

Paul Senkel
Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas

Dear Paul:

Thanks for being a part of our recent Home Buyers Seminar. The evaluation proved that a large majority of the audience was most eager to get the energy efficiency information.

I know the information on Gulf States' new services was also appreciated.

Thank you again for taking your time to assist us with this event.

Sincerely,
Tempie A. Brunson
County Extension Agent
Montgomery County

Editor's Note: Senkel, supervisor-energy audits in the Western Division, gave a presentation on energy conservation to the county-sponsored seminar.

PLAIN TALKS

**Volume 60 Number 9
November 1981**

Published 10 times yearly for employees and annuitants of Gulf States Utilities Company. Produced within the Public Affairs Department, Fred C. Repper, vice president, by the Communications Department, Henry Joyner, manager. Address all communications to Editor, PLAIN TALKS, Gulf States Utilities Company, P. O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, Phone (713) 838-4366.

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-79) and return them to the mailroom in the Wilson Building. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

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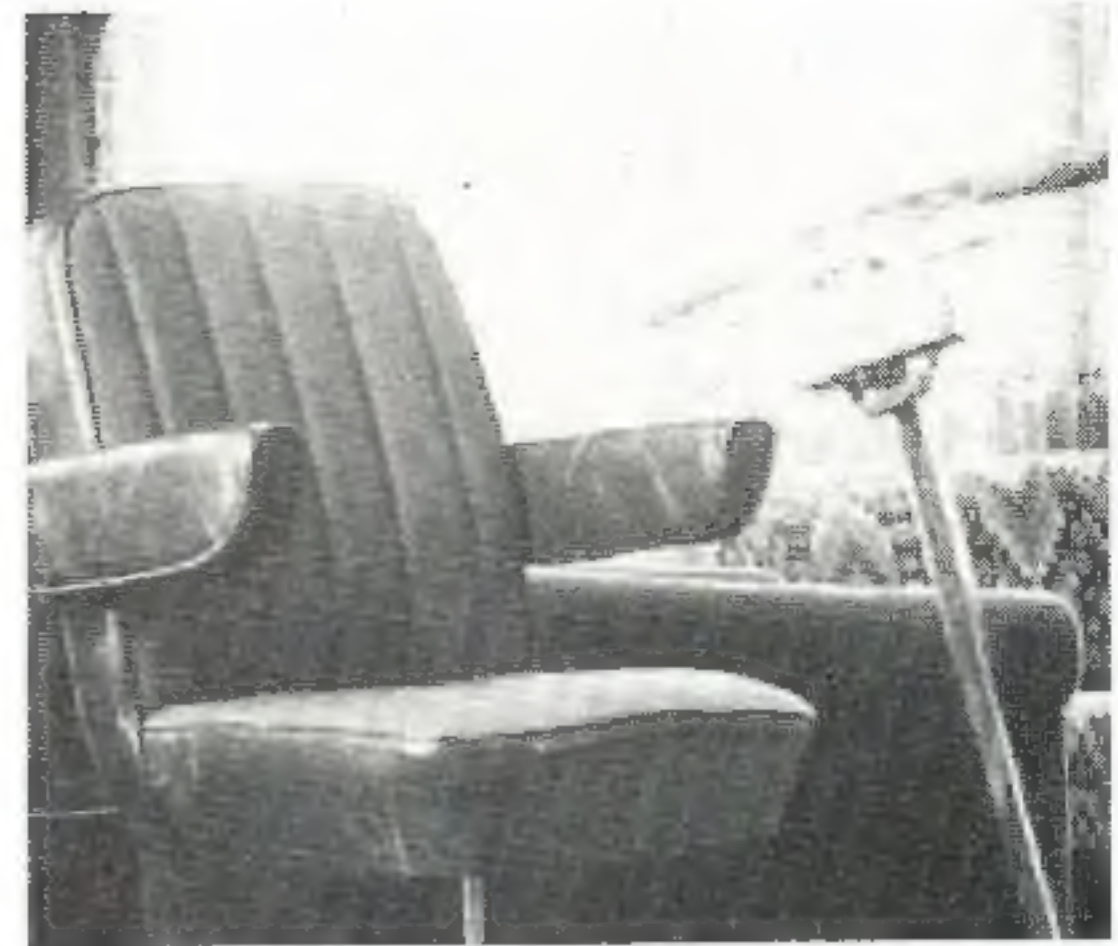
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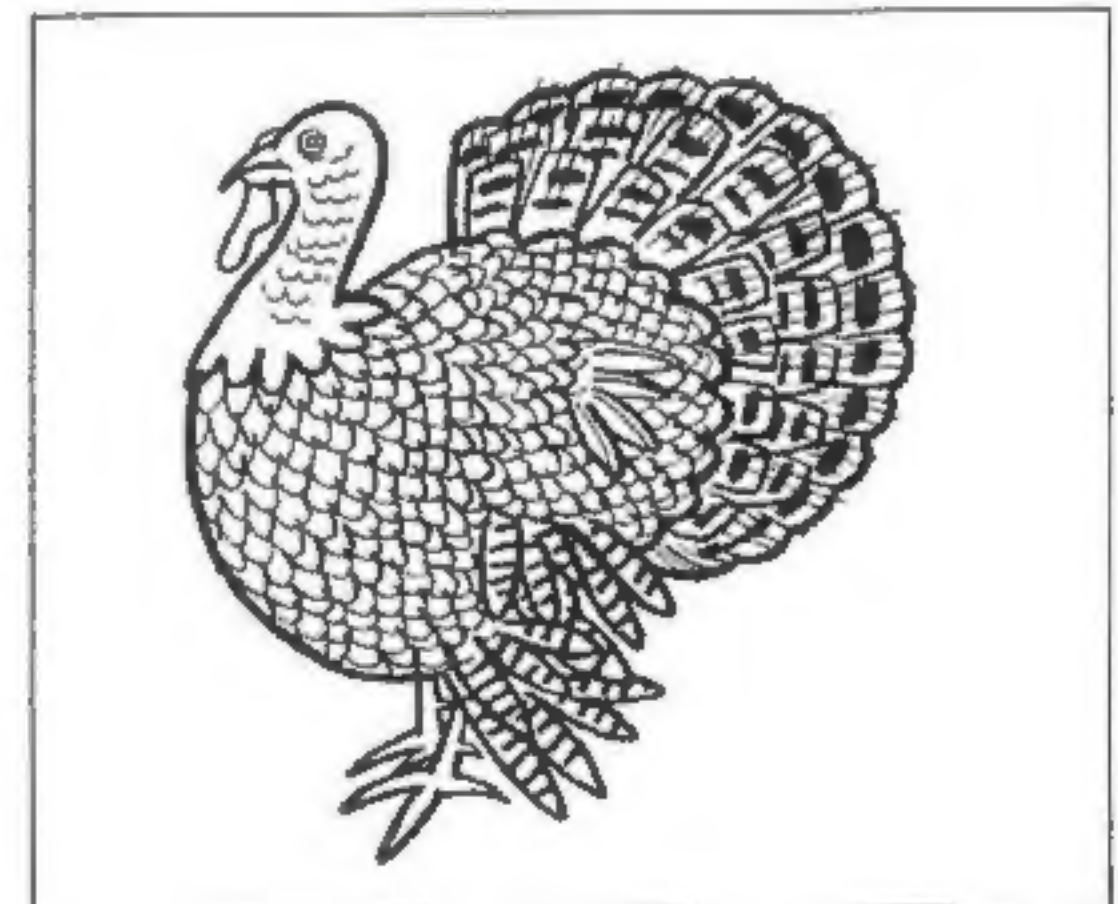
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Employees serve on cancer unit

Five active Beaumont employees and one retiree serve on the North Jefferson County unit of the American Cancer Society.

They are Ed Loggins, Don Zick, Joe Victorian, Candy Craft, Jim Turner and retiree Victor Gayle.



Jim Turner

According to Turner, who is an assistant to the vice president of Public Affairs, a new American Cancer Society study estimates that much of the \$3 billion that cancer costs American industry yearly could be cut back by getting workers to adopt some simple preventive and early detection practices.

Entitled "The Economic Impact of Cancer and Cancer Control on Private Industry," the report focuses on 62 million workers in private industry between the ages of 20 and 65 — about 2/3 of the U.S. work force. Of these workers, it says that more than 120,000 develop cancer each year and about 60,000 will die of the disease.

In estimating the overall impact of cancer, Dr. David M. Eddy of Stanford University and his associates calculated costs of lost time from work, sick leave and salary for temporary substitutes, permanent employee replacements, life insurance and lost future earnings.

The thrust of the cancer control effort focuses on four major cancers: lung, colon, breast and cervix. The following procedures are suggested:

— Monthly breast self-examination by all women employees.

— Breast physical examination yearly for women employees between the ages of 20 and 65.

— A Pap test at least every three years for women employees between the ages of 20 and 65, after two initial negatives a year apart.

— A stool guaiac slide test yearly for all male and female employees between the ages of 50 and 65.

— Anti-smoking activities with the goal of getting all employees to give up cigarettes.

The prevention program would have the greatest effect on lung cancer, the study asserts, with most of the reduction of disease among men.

Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during October 1981, covering employee deductions and company contributions through September 1981, included the purchase of 58,580 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$651,702.50. The average cost per share was \$11.125.

The trustee also deposited \$225,819.18 in savings with First Security Bank of Beaumont and \$42,150.04 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.



Moss named CC director

Jim Moss, Baton Rouge Division vice president, is one of four new directors-at-large for the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce.

Moss was promoted and transferred to the Baton Rouge Division early this year.

Along with the former Beaumont employee, two other business and professional leaders and a dentist were also named directors-at-large.

Crawford Reports “Lots of Independence”

Electric cart negotiates narrow doorways, sharp corners.

Almost three months after announcing that he was taking a medical leave of absence, Board Chairman Don Crawford obtained a battery-powered, three-wheeled scooter which he says has given him “lots of independence and movement.”

Crawford began his leave of absence in early August in order to speed his recovery from a motor neuron disease which in recent months had made it increasingly difficult for him to walk.

Doctors in the Department of Neurology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine ascertained last summer that Crawford has an unusual form of the disease, which affects the nerve cells that control movement of the legs and arms.

It was during one of his visits to the California medical center that Crawford first learned about the compact, highly maneuverable electric vehicles. The physicians referred him to Tom Kidd, a former member of a professional football team. Once a 230-pounder, the six-foot, six-inch Kidd is now down to 180 pounds several years after having had his neck broken during a

practice scrimmage. Crawford revealed, “He can’t move his legs and he can move his arms only a little.” Nevertheless, the once-active athlete stays in circulation by dialing a telephone with a pencil held between his teeth and by using an electric scooter.

Crawford’s visit with Kidd convinced him that he, too, would like to own a scooter. The custom-made model selected by Crawford — an A-BEC Portable Electric Scoota built in England and distributed from California — took several months to complete.

Crawford explained, “They didn’t have one for someone so tall, so when they made mine, they made up a dozen for other tall people.”

Specifically designed and engineered to offer wheelchair users the benefits of power operation and portability, the vehicle is ideal for Crawford, who frequently finds himself in busy airports between flights. The lightweight Scoota can be disassembled into three or four parts in just 30 seconds, Crawford pointed out. It features a basket for holding his briefcase and a cushioned swivel chair which

enables him to remain seated at a table. Most importantly, Crawford emphasized, its narrow width and compact turning radius permit him to get through doorways and around corners that conventional two-wheel models cannot negotiate.

And as an electric utility executive, Crawford appreciates the ease of charging the batteries every three days or so simply by plugging into a receptacle. “If a time of electric transportation comes in,” Crawford predicted, “our company will favor this kind of load.” The batteries, which are charged at night during off-peak hours, usually last about six months, he added.

But Crawford said he prefers not to become too dependent on the little machine. “I still use my crutches,” he pointed out. “This is just a temporary measure. I plan to walk on my own legs at some point in the future. In the meantime, this permits me to get around better,” he continued.



This view of the Scoota shows the battery holder at the rear of the vehicle.



Crawford demonstrates the Scoota for Beth Dodge, his secretary, and Norman Lee, acting chief executive officer.

Dateline/New Caney...

About 1,200 customers are served by the New Caney office in the Western Division, making the location one of the busiest local offices in the company.

Those customers are served by about 30 employees — including 10-year employee Diane Winkelmann, a senior clerk, who claims the office is practically “ripping out at the seams” amid the rapid growth of the area. New Caney is located within commuting distance of Houston’s skyscrapers.

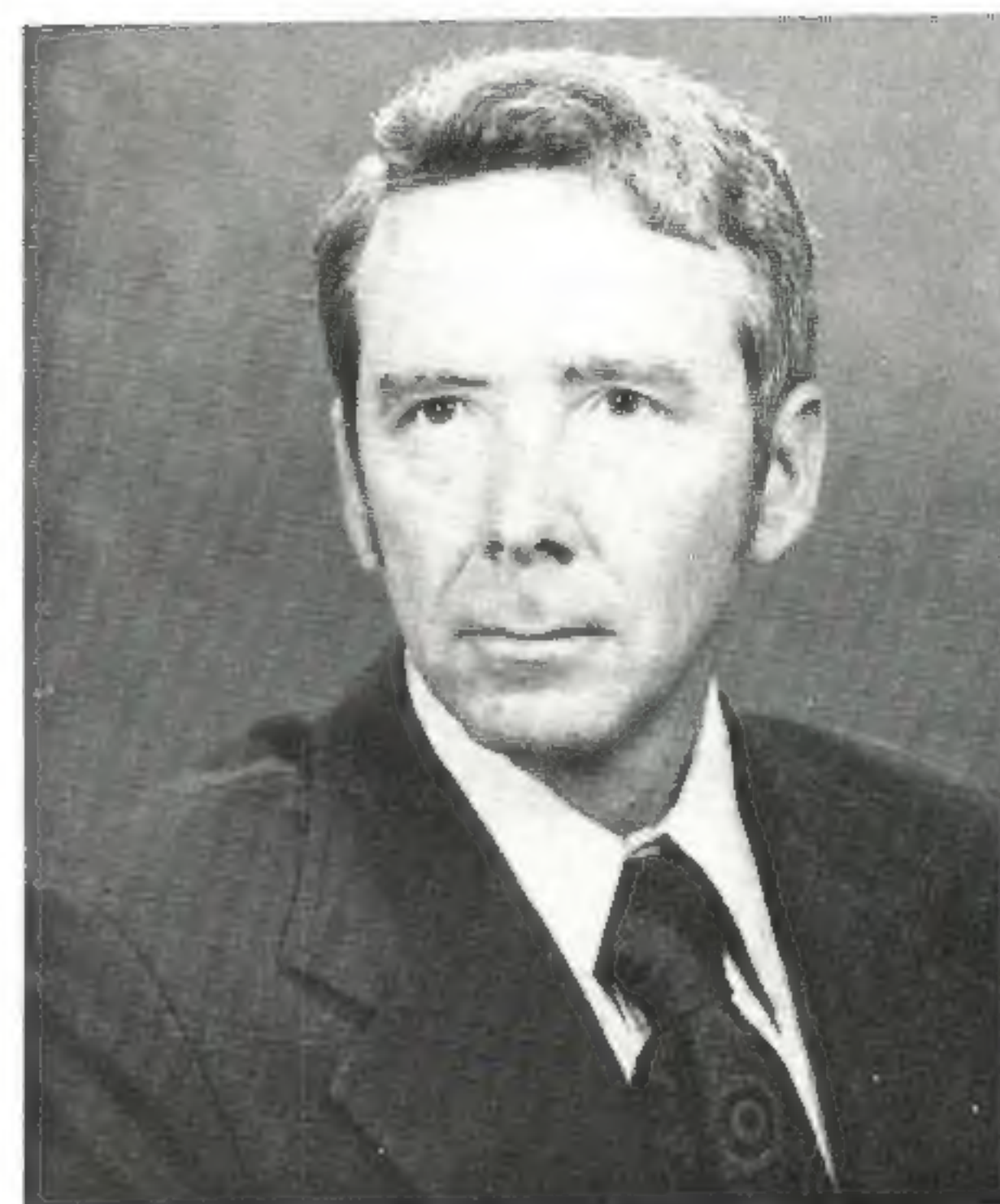
Since October 1972, the office has been located in a “temporary” prefabricated structure, but District Superintendent Charles W. Jones says he is hopeful that a permanent structure will be under construction before the end of 1982.



Moseley — “Jack of all trades.”

Paul Moseley, district consumer service representative based in New Caney, says he has become a “jack of all trades” since he must

cover a wider range of responsibilities than his counterparts in larger offices.



Jones — Predicts new office will be built.

LIBRARY LINES

Procedure Given for Ordering Materials

by Karen McConnell
Corporate Librarian

Employees who wish to order a book, pamphlet, magazine, film or other material for the library should fill out a “Request for Library Services” form (GSU 4437.2-00-80).

After the necessary approvals are obtained, the form should be forwarded to the Corporate Library. However, since the library is growing continuously, employees should first check to see if the needed material is already available!

Data base review

Source documents are continuing serials, periodicals, annuals, biennials and special publications which cover the spectrum of social, economic and demographic data collected and analyzed by all branches and agencies of the U.S. government.

The file includes publications generated by the major federal statistical agencies, including the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the

National Center for Social Statistics and the Statistical Reporting Service of the Department of Agriculture.

Covering the period from 1973 to the present, the file is updated monthly. It also features selected coverage of publications issued during the 1960s. The file does not list the actual statistics; instead, it explains where they can be found.

Gulf Stater Locates Family

The Bill Griffin family of Beaumont can just plan on adding extra plates for holiday feasts this year.

When the Gulf Stater was reunited with his big sister this October, the meeting ended a search that began more than 30 years ago when the two siblings were abruptly separated in a Galveston orphanage.

Griffin, 39, has also been in touch with one brother and is attempting to contact two remaining brothers and another sister.

The 17-year employee, who is a foreman in the Relay Department in Beaumont, was reunited with his sister, Delores Bates, in Galveston — the city where the children were separated in 1949.

Deserted by their parents, Griffin and his sister, together with two of the other children, were placed in a Galveston orphanage in 1946. Three years later, Griffin whose name originally was Leo William Russell, was adopted at the age of 7.

It was the last he saw of his blood relatives — until late October.

Despite the long separation, Griffin said feelings of kinship were quickly re-established between himself and his sister, who has since moved to Beaumont with her three daughters, ages 10, 13 and 16.

And Griffin's wife Tess and his two youngsters, 4-year-old Ingrid and 2-year-old Shawn, are becoming acquainted with their new aunt and cousins.

On the same day that Griffin met Mrs. Bates, he talked with his brother, George Russell of Los Angeles. Russell plans to visit his Beaumont relatives in March, Griffin revealed.

As the youngest of six children, Griffin said he often wondered why his elder brothers and sisters had not tried to contact him.

What Griffin failed to realize, however, was that Mrs. Bates had been searching for him off and on throughout the years. The 48-year-old woman had traveled to Galveston seven times, hoping to find clues to her baby brother's whereabouts.

She almost found him this spring. Griffin had stopped at the Galveston Children's Home where the two had been placed

as children and had left a message for Mrs. Bates.

But an administrator had misplaced the address. The official did recall, however that Griffin had said he lived in Beaumont. Mrs. Bates contacted the *Beaumont Enterprise*, a daily newspaper, which passed the message on to Griffin. Griffin, in turn, contacted his sister.

Despite the feeling of family that is developing between the Griffins and the Bates, Griffin revealed that he is still determined to contact his remaining brothers and sister. He is also looking forward to seeing his brother George next spring.

In the meantime, Griffin is even considering switching back to his original name.



Bill Griffin, Beaumont employee

photo by The Beaumont Enterprise

Scott Man Helps Build Airplane



Paul climbs into the cockpit of the Acro-Sport plane he helped build.

Gulf States retiree Paul Broussard admits that he likes "to take odds and ends and put them together."

Just a year ago, Paul and a nephew had assembled enough odds and ends to produce a 150-horsepower, single-passenger acrobatic airplane.

Donald Broussard of Lafayette, the nephew, had "fallen in love with an acrobatic plane" after seeing one in an air show, Paul explains. He obtained a set of blueprints and the uncle and nephew went to work. Ironically, Paul cannot fly, although Donald holds a private pilot's license.

The craft had to undergo periodic scrutiny by Federal Aviation Administration officials.

Once completed, it was 17 feet long and had a wingspan of 19 feet.

The project, begun in 1973 and interrupted by illnesses for both Paul and Donald, was completed in 1980. Then the pair sold the craft to a Lake Charles duo.

Later, Donald decided he wanted to buy the plane back, but the buyers "wanted too much for it," Paul explained.

Paul's skilled hands have built more than an airplane. When he was working on the aircraft, for instance, he revealed, "We worked Saturday and Sunday on the plane. In between, I'd build seines and trolls for shrimp."

He also found the time to construct two pirogues powered with electric motors. Since fishing is a

favorite pastime, he also raises catalpa worms and crickets for bait. He and a friend recently stocked a pond with bass.

Paul, who is 56, was a 30-year GSU employee when poor health forced him to retire in 1977. An earlier back problem had simply caused him to take a less physically demanding position, but a heart attack in 1976 forced him to slow down even more.

Early retirement posed a major hurdle for Broussard, who had always been active at work and in the community of Scott. "I was mayor of Scott for eight years and was an alderman for four years before that," he recalled. At the time, the town had a population of about 1,300. Now about 2,500 make their home in Scott, which is located outside the rapidly growing city of Lafayette.

Although Paul relished the work, he conceded, "It was a lot of worry. I was paid \$20 a month when I was mayor." His years in office spanned from 1958 until 1970.

This December, Paul and his wife Mattie will celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary. The couple has known each other since their high school days. They have two daughters and one son.

Mattie can testify to how restless Paul can get if he doesn't have a project to busy his hands.

"If it rains, he goes crazy. He reads and then starts pacing the house," she noted.



Paul and Mattie and their poodle Celeste enjoy a relaxing moment in their backyard.

Surprise Delivery

by Adelaide Bankston
Plain Talks Correspondent

Shirley Taylor has reason to be extra-proud of her newest niece, Courtney Jarrell.

The system training representative, based in Baton Rouge, assisted with the delivery of little Courtney on Sept. 15.

But that does not mean Mrs. Taylor ever again wants to be a midwife. "I'd do it again only if I had to — not by choice," she asserted. For that very reason, Mrs. Taylor said she is going to be very careful about staying around another of her sisters, who is expecting after the first of the year.

According to Mrs. Taylor, the surprise delivery occurred under the following circumstances:

On Sept. 15, Mrs. Taylor's sister, Myrtis Jarrell, called to see if she would be able to take her to the doctor's office because she thought she might be suffering from indigestion. Since the baby's due date was Nov. 17, Mrs. Taylor also felt that was probably the case.

But just in case, Mrs. Jarrell warned, Mrs. Taylor should bring along a couple of sheets. The GSUer grabbed a couple of towels instead.

The baby began its arrival enroute to the doctor's office, unknown to Mrs. Taylor. The 10-year Gulf States veteran said the first indication she had that a baby was actually on the way was when her sister, who was lying down on the back seat, asked for her hand. When Mrs. Taylor reached back, she placed the baby's head against her palm.

Mrs. Taylor admits that that's when she lost any vestiges of calmness.

Stopping the car at a red light on North Acadian, one of Baton Rouge's busier thoroughfares, Mrs. Taylor climbed into the back seat and assisted with the rest of the delivery. Then she transported the mother and crying baby to the nearest hospital — Baton Rouge General. Unfortunately, she had forgotten that the facility does not handle deliveries. Not only that, but Mrs. Taylor was so shaken that she passed up the emergency room entrance, parking instead at the front entrance.

Despite their no-delivery rule, a couple of sympathetic paramedics offered assistance to the pair, then transported mother,



Shirley Taylor, Baton Rouge

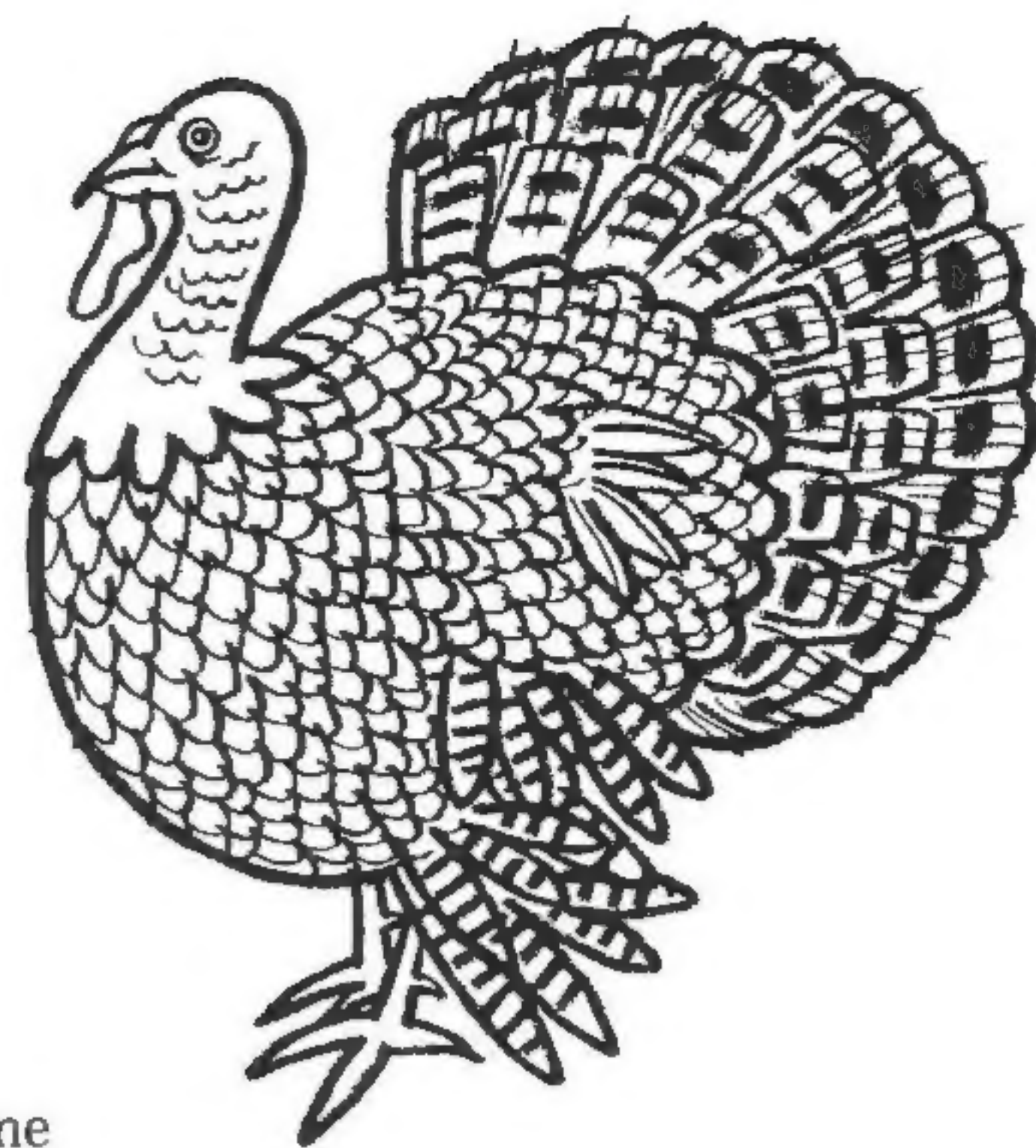
baby and Aunt Shirley by ambulance to Woman's Hospital.

Since then, both Mrs. Jarrell and Courtney have returned home to father Roosevelt Jarrell and big sister Erica. The seven-pound, 12-ounce infant was also welcomed by her maternal grandmother, Dora Douglas, widow of the late John Douglas, and her paternal grandparents, Alex and Josephine Jarrell.

But Mrs. Taylor's troubles were not over after the successful delivery.

"After I left Woman's Hospital, somebody brought me back to Baton Rouge General — but I couldn't remember where I had parked my car!" she lamented.

Employees Reveal Holiday Plans



Gulf States employees from throughout the service area opt for traditional Thanksgiving feasts and family reunions when they make their holiday plans.

But two male employees revealed that their traditional family meals will feature a slight twist — the menu will include wild game that they themselves shot.

Just as the Pilgrims did, Dan Speeg, an instrument technician at Willow Glen, said that he usually shoots his Thanksgiving entree. Speeg modestly admitted that he usually has “pretty good luck” in bagging game.

Other aspects of the Speeg family celebration include “enjoying a nice meal and seeing as much of our family as possible.” Since Speeg’s parents live in Gonzales and his wife’s parents make their home in Baton Rouge, the couple usually eats dinner together before going out to visit both sets of relatives.

Robert Howell is single, but he, too, will enjoy a traditional family get-together in his hometown of Buna, Texas. The Nelson Coal Plant electrician noted that the menu will feature roast turkey — and the turkey will be the one he killed last year on a hunt in west Texas.

Along with Howell’s immediate family members, others attending the dinner will include several of his aunts, uncles and a grandmother.

Howell even has specific plans in mind for after-dinner activities. “All the men will settle down to

enjoy beer, whiskey and football,” he noted. Afterwards, some family members will go “mudding” in his Jeep.

Her Ohio hometown is a long way away, but Sandy Kaven said she and her husband of one year will be establishing their own Thanksgiving traditions as they spend their first holiday in a small house.

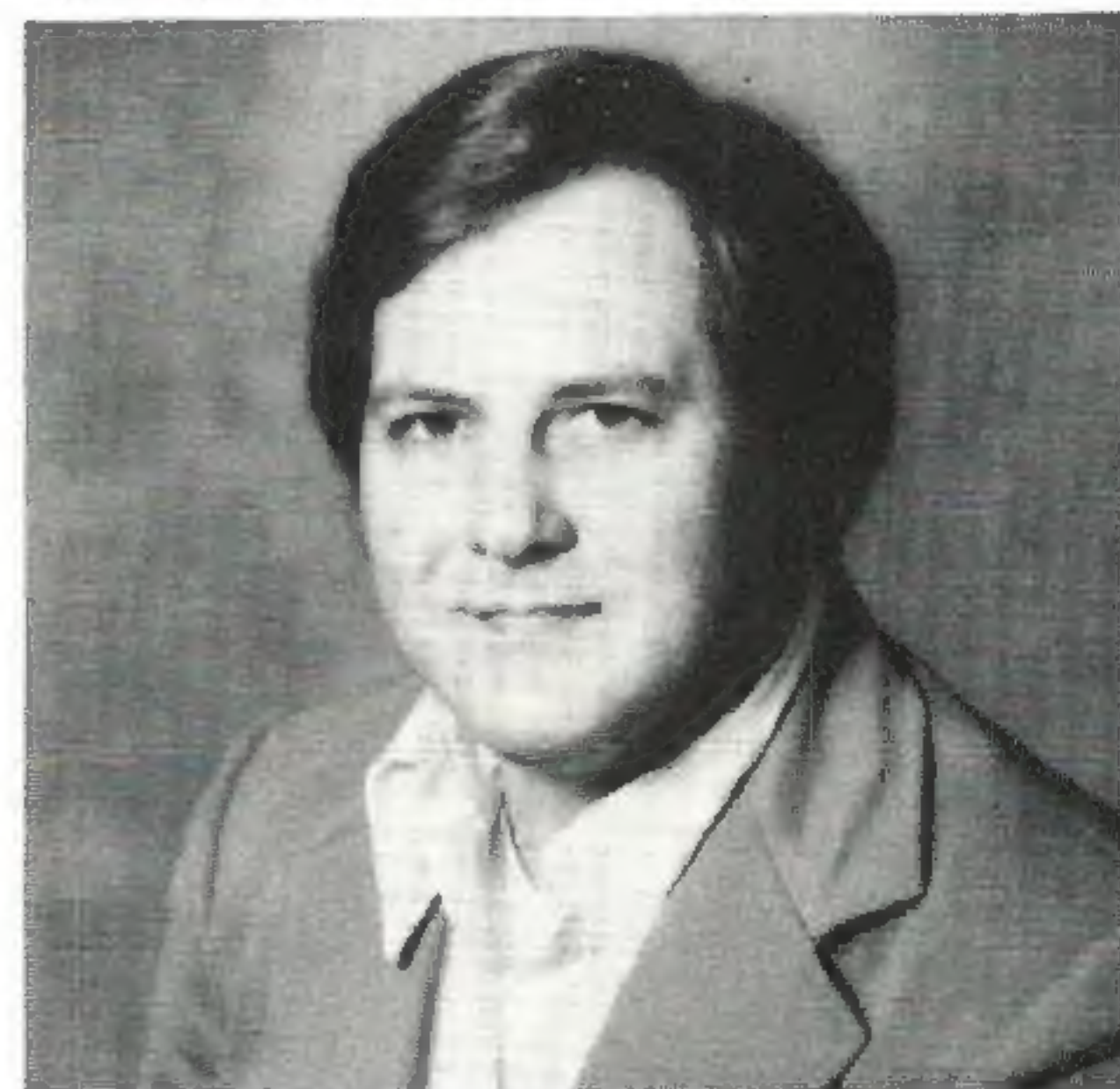
A consumer service representative based in Orange, Mrs. Kaven recalled that last year the couple lived in the family section of an Orange apartment complex. Residents got together for a potluck meal. She said it gave her a chance to meet people from Texas, Louisiana and other states. “It was really very nice. We got to experience various types of cooking. It was just like dinner with the family,” she added. Kaven went to work for Gulf States this past January. Her husband-to-be had moved to Orange the previous June to go to work for Dupont. The couple was married in Ohio in September 1980.

Juan Villarreal, a first class test technician at Lewis Creek Station, will not be making his annual pilgrimage to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to visit his parents. The seven-year Gulf States veteran said his family usually gathers in Tulsa for the Thanksgiving meal, and there are about 25 people around the table most years. “I’ve got lots of brothers and sisters, cousins and aunts.” This year, because of work scheduling Villarreal will cele-

brate with his immediate family at home in the Western Division.

He also noted that different shops at the power plant observe the holiday with a potluck meal and he planned to participate in one of those celebrations.

Cary Cockrill, a control operator at Nelson Coal, planned to travel to Blanco, Texas, with his brother to participate in a turkey and deer hunt. After the hunt, the pair was to join the rest of their family in Conroe for a traditional turkey dinner.



Gary Cockrill: Plans hunt.

And Anne Deaton, a departmental clerk at Nelson Coal, was to be cooking her second traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Guests were to include immediate family members and her boyfriend, Alan Dougherty, a repairman at Nelson Coal. Miss Deaton’s menu was to feature turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

Company Comparison-Shops, Too

Just as other consumers of goods and services do, Gulf States also comparison-shops to find the best product or service for the best price.

And in the Lake Charles Division, that effort was recently intensified with the September opening of a new Purchasing Department office in the Lakeside Bank Building, located 1½ blocks from the division headquarters.

Gulf States hosted an open house in the new sixth floor office on Nov. 23, according to John English, the purchasing agent in charge of the new office. He and the other four office staff members were joined by Division Vice President Ted Meinscher in welcoming area vendors to the event.

Roy Dauzat, the company's director of purchasing based in Beaumont, noted that establishment of the Lake Charles office underscored a company commitment to decentralization of purchasing activities while at the same time centralizing control. He emphasized that central control has become a reality because of a new computer system. The Purchasing Department has recently begun using the Purchasing Automated Sub System (PASS), which is an on-line materials management system. The system provides the Purchasing Department with information it needs to keep abreast of developments on material throughout the system.

Dauzat said that there will be several advantages to concen-

trating Lake Charles Division purchasing activities in the area. "Our company policy is to buy from the vendor or vendors nearest the point of use, other considerations being equal. Not only is there an advantage in transportation costs and service, but it's usually just good business to patronize local businesses," he explained.

According to Dauzat, the Purchasing Department operates on the philosophy that a dollar saved for Gulf States is a dollar saved for the customer.

A 20-acre combination picnic/athletic site will be one of the offerings for members of a new employee recreational club at Sabine Station near Bridge City, Texas.

Also being planned for the several hundred acres adjoining the plant are areas designated for redfishing and boat launching. Rufus Mier, a board member of the new Sabine Port Arthur Recreational Club (SPARC), said a fishing pier will eventually be built at the site.

Much of the brush-clearing and fence-building has been done by employees who have participated in weekend "work parties." Additional work parties were to be held on Dec. 5 and Dec. 12.

All active and retired Gulf States employees and their immediate family members are eligible to join SPARC. About 60

"SPARC" Catches On at Sabine Station

had joined by mid-November, according to Mier. Dues are \$6 quarterly and may be paid through payroll deductions. In addition, there is a one-time initiation fee of \$25. Retirees and their spouses are eligible for honorary memberships for a one-time initiation fee of \$25.

Mier stressed that the charter members are "trying to hit 1982 running" and hope to have the picnic area ready for use by the spring. "First, we've got to get the property secured, mainly by building a fence," he noted. So far, about one-half of the fence posts and rails have been installed. Mier and other board members

have appointed a nominating committee which will propose a slate of officers for 1982.

In addition to Mier, who is based in the Port Arthur Division office, other board members are Brian Fulton, Joe Domino and Glynn Gaudet, all of Sabine Station; Delbert Zimmerly and Lester Boudreaux, both of the Port Arthur service center; James Fernandez of the Mid-County office; and Division Vice President Ron McKenzie.

SERVICE AWARDS

30
years

20
years

10
years



Thomas A. E. Wier
Engineering Design
Beaumont



Milton J. Pellerin
Electric T&D
Port Arthur



Gene T. Skeen
Plant Production
Neches Station



Edith C. Patterson
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Jacque Perkins
Materials Management
Beaumont

Former Teacher Devises Curriculum Guide

Home economics students traditionally have learned invaluable secrets for running an efficient household, so it seems only natural that home energy conservation should be part of the curriculum. But it has not been, and GSU Senior Consumer Services Representative Carol Morris has devised a method to help correct the oversight.

A former home economics teacher herself, Morris master-minded a curriculum guide about energy conservation. The book is specifically designed for use in homemaking courses. Performing home-energy audits for Gulf States not only inspired her but also gave her the background knowledge for the task.

"The energy situation is affecting family lifestyles," Morris said about the need for energy conservation in a time of rising costs and possible fuel shortages. "The point is not whether energy conservation should be taught in home economics courses but how

it should be done." Morris' book provides the guidance needed.

Produced in-house at Gulf States, "Energy and the Family" is a teaching guide for home-making teachers. In addition to background information on the energy predicament, the book covers basic home energy conservation problems and measures. As part of the course, students investigate their homes and determine ways to eliminate energy-wasting problems.

At the request of the Texas director of homemaking education, Morris recently presented state workshops on teaching techniques in home energy management. Teachers who attended the state homemaking teachers conference were provided copies of "Energy and the Family." To further encourage use of the guide, Morris conducted a workshop for a hundred Beaumont-area homemaking teachers, principals and vocational directors from 31 high

schools.

Beaumont Division Vice President Arden Loughmiller addressed the group at the session about the cost of energy. For more information about the home-making guide, Morris can be reached in the Calder Building in Beaumont.

— by Ilene Harral

RETIREE UPDATE

Baton Rouge group holds meeting

About 80 Baton Rouge retirees gathered for the Aug. 12 meeting of the group, which featured presentations by Gulf Staters Molly Field and Dewey Lytle.

Miss Field, who is with the Human Resources Department in Beaumont, answered questions relating to retiree benefits. Lytle, who serves as operating superintendent-electric for the Baton Rouge Division, told the group about a new Employee Recreation Center being built in Baton Rouge.

It was announced that the December meeting, originally scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 9 had been rescheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8 so as not to conflict with a children's Christmas party.

Emery, Eisworth retire in November

Two Baton Rouge division employees retired Nov. 1.

They were Sammie L. Eisworth of the Line Department at Choctaw service center and George Emery of Division Accounting in Baton Rouge.

Eisworth makes his home in Greenwell Springs, while Emery lives in Baton Rouge.

Caswell dies in Beaumont

William H. "Hilly" Caswell, 78, of Beaumont died Monday, Oct. 26 at his home following an illness.

A native of the Voth-Rosedale area, Caswell had retired from Gulf States on Aug. 1, 1968, after having spent almost 43 years with the company. He joined the company in November 1925 as a clerk in the Distribution Department in Beaumont. He became a meter clerk in 1934, employee welfare clerk in 1936 and distribution clerk in the T&D Department in 1948. He was named section head in maps and records in 1956 and held that position until his retirement.

A graduate of the old Allen Academy in Beaumont, Caswell attended Texas A&M and Lamar University and completed a number of correspondence courses in electronics.

Upon his retirement, Caswell told a *Plain Talks* reporter that the most outstanding aspect of his GSU career had been the company's period of growth.

"I recall the day, in either 1926 or 1927, that E.S. Fitz, then the company's only vice president and a very quiet man, patted me on the back, and with a broad smile exclaimed, 'We finally made it!' He was speaking of a summer peak generation of 50,000 kilowatts," Caswell recalled.

In comparison, the peak for the summer of 1981 was 5,482,000 kilowatts (5,482 megawatts) on July 22.

Survivors include his wife, Velma Caswell of Beaumont; and one sister, Corrine Hayes of Atlanta, Texas.

Servicemen plan Dec. 1 retirements

Two Service Department employees are among those planning to retire Dec. 1.

Claude W. Stracener of the Beaumont service center and Gerald Dailey of the Orange office will retire then.

Stracener makes his home in Lumberton, while Dailey lives in Orange.

Western Division retirees meet

The Western Division Retired Employees Club held its quarterly meeting in Conroe on Oct. 14, reports Pauline Carroll, *Plain Talks* correspondent.

Mike Sealy, director-benefits, addressed the group.

The addition of two new retirees — Frank Robinson of Huntsville and Charles Boring of Navasota — brought total membership of the club up to 60, Mrs. Carroll revealed.

Bosses honored in October



Nancy Nesbitt of Materials Management in Beaumont and Dennis Singletary of Division Accounting in Lake Charles were the surprised recipients on Oct. 16 of special "Boss's Day" recognition.

Miss Nesbitt (shown holding a basket of fruit in the upper photograph) was honored by (from left to right) Diane Realme, Elaine Stewart, Donna Floyd, Tressie Butcher, Maxine Thomas, Mildred Scott, Melvinice Broussard, Pamela Flowers, Clare Scott and Lynda Meinscher. Not shown, but also contributing to the gift, were Joy Lively and Sylvia Luquette.

Singletary is shown in the bottom photograph with the decorated cake and gift he received.

Clarke boys win races

Keith and Kevin Clarke recently placed in drag races at Chennault, reports Edith Patterson, *Plain Talks* correspondent.

The two are sons of Dudley Clarke, general line foreman in Lake Charles.

Keith placed first in the motorcycle division, while Kevin placed second with his Chevrolet Rally Sport car.

Safety Fair held in Lake Charles

Bucket rides were only part of the attractions featured at the Lake Charles Division Annual Safety Fair on Sept. 19.

More than 1,400 employees and family members from Jennings, Lafayette, Lake Charles and Nelson Station attended the event.



Along with bucket rides, bingo, horseshoes and other games, participants were treated to chicken, hamburgers and fish burgers and could sample entries in a cake baking contest.

Door prize winners were Todd Lege, son of Garland Lege of Lafayette; Elizabeth Stelly, daughter of Joseph Stelly of Lafayette; David Ringuet, son of Rodney Ringuet of Jennings; and Debbie Dodson, a Lake Charles employee.

Winner of the grand prize — a color television — was Eric

Guillotte, the son of Robert Guillotte of Nelson Station.

Winners in the cake baking contest were Mary Jane Deshotel, wife of John Deshotel of Jennings, 1st place; Donna Hall, daughter of Calvin Hall of Lake Charles, second place; and Evelyn Hall, wife of Calvin Hall, third place.

by Edith Patterson



Motley crew reports to work

An odd assortment of characters reported to work in the Petroleum Building on Oct. 30.

Shown are punk rock musician Pam Marquis (standing above the others), shady lady Pam Gordon and her companion, Jim Bradford (standing left), Junior Samples imitator Bill Weatherford, elf Dayna Allen, M*A*S*H patient Dan Prudhomme (kneeling), baseball player Pam Jones (kneeling), little girl Mary Smith (seated), clown Gene Michalovich, monster Lisa Sherman and Dr. Spock imitator Jerry Tiefel.

Sabine employee has daughter

Little Sabrina Elise Fulton made her appearance in the Brian and Armida Fulton family on Sept. 11, when she was born in Mid-Jefferson County Hospital.

She weighed 5 pounds, 7½ ounces.

Fulton is a 1st class electrician at Sabine Station.

Copeland given farewell party



Tina Copeland of Lewis Creek Station was honored with a farewell party in October as she prepared to resign to become a fulltime mother and housewife.

Mrs. Copeland, a five-year veteran of the company, was a 1st class test technician. In addition to the baby she was expecting, she has an 8-year-old daughter, Jennifer.

The cake she is holding was made by employee Kevin Sanders.



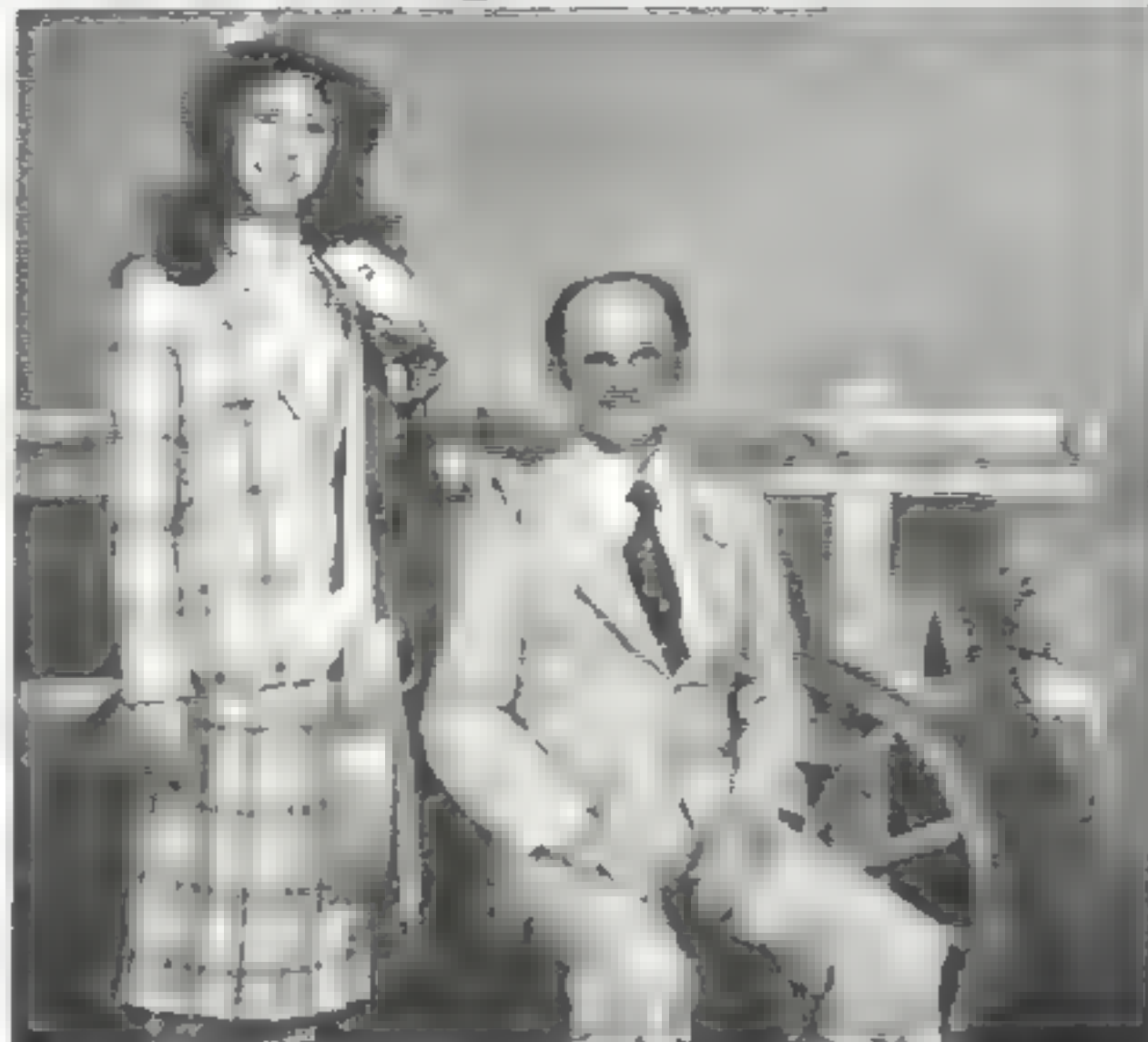
Lines 'buzz' in Sulphur

Linemen are a little reluctant to approach at least one utility pole in the Sulphur District.

According to *Plain Talks* Correspondent Edith Patterson, hornets have built a large nest on the bottom of a transformer.

Employee's daughter serves on court

Jenny Boudreaux, a senior at Westlake High School, recently served on her school's football homecoming court.



Jenny is pictured with her father, A. J. Boudreaux, test department foreman at Nelson Station. A member of the homecoming court for two years, Jenny is head cheerleader at Westlake High.



Girl doubles as alligator

A perky Lagrange Senior High School senior doubles as an alligator — her southwest Louisiana high school's mascot.

Mona Landry, the daughter of John Landry of Nelson Station, has even been known to try to frighten her little brother Mitch when she has been in costume.

As mascot for the football team, the Gators, Mona can be spotted most Friday nights parading back and forth in front of the stands, clad in a purple 'gator suit.



Young girl wins poster contest

Christy Prejean, 9-year-old daughter of Rod and Marie Prejean of Lake Charles, recently won \$300 in a Crime Stoppers poster contest.

Christy's mother is a customer contact clerk in the Lake Charles office.

The contest was for children in the fourth through eighth grades. As winner of both the fourth grade division and the overall contest, Christy's poster was also displayed on a local billboard. She was competing against 2,765 posters from throughout the area.

Paper features 'odd' employees

A Vidor newspaper featured a picture of four odd-looking Gulf States employees recently.

The four — who were costumed for Halloween — were (from left to right) Shirley Godeaux, a gypsy; Karen Durmon, a clown; Rhonda Haskins, a bunny rabbit; and Carolyn Jarreau, who portrayed President Reagan.

The newspaper cutline jokingly commented, "It would appear that GSU is an equal opportunity employer."





Crew installs new transformer

A Beaumont substation crew recently helped install a second transformer at the Doucette Substation, located near Woodville, reported Jim Dumesnil, relayman-1st class.

Shown on the job in October are (from left to right) O. M. Dixon, Charlie Powell, Rick Frazier (leaning over), Johnny Page and Bobby Broussard. Shown sitting in the background is Benny Gibson of the Relay Department.



Mayeux receives suggestion award

Joe Mayeux, a Line Department employee at Choctaw service center, was recently awarded a \$100 check for his winning suggestion made under the Employee Suggestion Program.

Mayeux's proposal was to use standardized chucks for hand-driven and hydraulic drills. (A chuck is an attachment for holding a workpiece or tool in a machine.)

Shown in the picture are (from left to right) Dewey Lytle, operating superintendent-electric for the Baton Rouge Division, Mayeux and Baton Rouge Division Vice President Jim Moss.

Richard honored with party



Bill Richard, who was recently transferred from Lake Charles to Beaumont, was honored by his former co-workers with a party.

Among his farewell gifts were a pair of long johns for taking along on his fishing trips to Canada and a flower pot.

Richard is pictured modeling the top of the long underwear.

Mack celebrates 57th birthday



Howard Mack was honored on his 57th birthday with a surprise party given by his co-workers.

He was given a decorated cake and a plant for his office.



Beck's device wins \$500

Glynn Beck, a Lake Charles utility man, won \$500 under the Employee Suggestion Program after designing a device that enables the company to salvage wire from rotten wooden reels.

Over a two-year period, it has been estimated, the company lost \$2,500 worth of wire that could not be reclaimed from the damaged reels. The new equipment cost only \$200 to construct.

Beck is shown accepting the check from Ted Meinscher, division vice president.



Kincaid wins safety points

Conrad Kincaid of the Substation Department in Beaumont is shown putting the finishing touches on a project that entitled him to \$50 in safety points under the Employee Suggestion Program.

The apparatus will be used to lift and carry large cylinders filled with compressed air or gas.

ON THE MOVE

Ancelet, Harvey J., Jr., Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Elec. T&D.

Ashley, Thomas W., Baton Rouge, to assistant general foreman-corrosion, Gas Department.

Babineaux, Joseph H., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Bates, Dennis M., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Bob, Sidney J., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Engineering Design.

Boenker, Robert E., formerly of Conroe, to line foreman, Oak Ridge Plaza.

Bourgeois, Stephen P., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Browne, Richard L., formerly of Sabine Station, to electrical coordinator, Beaumont System Production.

Burrell, Mamie B., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Castile, Iona M., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Office Services.

Castle, Darrell G., Baton Rouge, to engineering assistant, Elec. T&D.

Cloutre, Thomas L., Port Allen, to utility foreman, T&D Line.

Cutrer, Donald K., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Davidson, James W., formerly of Baton Rouge, to director-solar project, Beaumont System Consumer Services.

Davis, Donald R., Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.

Deka, Marianne C., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Elec. T&D.

Dorsey, Brent W., Beaumont, to supervisor-load & energy forecasting, System Consumer Services.

Duncan, James R., formerly of Nelson Coal Plant, to training representative, Beaumont Human Resources.

Ellison, Barbara A., Beaumont, formerly of River Bend Nuclear Group, to secretary-executive Engineering and Technical Services.

English, Clifton O., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Etie, Pamela C., Nelson Coal, to storeroom assistant, Plant Production.

Fauntleroy, Donald E., Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.

Fountain, Michael O., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Fowler, Karla S., Conroe, to stenographer, Division Consumer Services.

Galassi, Frank G., Huntsville, to apprentice, Elec. T&D.

Garner, Gary M., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Gordon, James W., Jr., Port Arthur, to collector, Division Accounting.

Graham, Bertie S., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Real Estate.

Guillory, Robert E., Orange, to substation mechanic-4th class, Elec. T&D.

Halliburton, Danny L., Port Arthur, to relayman-1st class, Elec. T&D.

Hallmark, Steven A., formerly of Beaumont, to Western Division T&D Operations, division forecaster.

Hamilton, Esquardo H., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Elec. T&D.

Hardy, Ernest D., Jr., Nelson Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Hartner, Dennis M., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-4th class, Elec. T&D.

Holder, Jommy C., Beaumont, to employee benefits representative, Human Resources.

Jackson, Emery J., Louisiana Station, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

James, Eric M., Port Arthur, to apprentice, Elec. T&D.

Jeansonne, Steven J., Jr., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Jennings, Mark O., Orange, to apprentice, Elec. T&D.

Jimnez, David, Beaumont, to garage worker, Elec. T&D.

Johnson, William Jr., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Jones, William E., Willow Glen Station, to supervisor-contract crews, Plant Production.

Kelly, Charles B., Baton Rouge, to assistant general foreman-gas, Gas Department.

Lambert, Benny, Louisiana Station, to head fireman, Plant Production.

Landry, Larry, Beaumont, to utility worker II, Building Services.

LeBlanc, Tommy C., Beaumont, to garage mechanic-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Leggett, Travis L., Zachary, to apprentice, Elec. T&D.

Lodge, Freddie Jr., Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Loscuito, Michael D., Conroe, to garage mechanic-1st class, Elec. T&D.

McAfee, Elizabeth J., Beaumont, to special projects coordinator, Rates & Regulatory Affairs.

McKinley, Marcy H., Port Arthur, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

McMillon, Lemuel R., Jr., Orange, to district substation operator, Elec. T&D.

Newton, Paul E., Beaumont, to communication serviceman-1st class, Engineering Design.

Paul, Robert M., Jr., Lafayette, to apprentice, Elec. T&D.

Persley, JoAnn T., Beaumont, to key punch operator-senior, Computer Applications.

Potter, Harry H., III, Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Prince, Ronald J., Port Arthur, to lineman-3rd class, Elec. T&D.

Rabalais, James S., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D.

Reed, Leonard R., Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D.

Reynolds, Teddy R., Baton Rouge, accountant, transferred from Division Accounting to T&D Operations.

Rice, Raymond E., Lafayette, to lineman-1st class, Elec. T&D.

Schlesinger, Byron L., Lake Charles, to apprentice, Elec. T&D.

Schneider, Eugene H., Willow Glen Station, to mechanical maintenance foreman, Plant Production.

Shepard, Gregory K., Beaumont, to coordinator-conservation services, System Consumer Services.

Smith, Mary R., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Smith, Morris Jr., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Staton, John A., Conroe, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Elec. T&D.

Stephenson, Chris E., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D.

Summers, Timothy L., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Tate, Kevin A., Baton Rouge, to pipeman-2nd class, Gas Dept.

Walker, James B., II, Port Arthur, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Walker, Keith P., Port Arthur, to communication serviceman-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Warner, Larry D., Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Wilder, James E., formerly of Beaumont, to division accounting superintendent, Western Division Accounting.

Wilson, David M., Beaumont, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Wilson, Mark M., Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Wright, Richie D., Conroe, to meterman-2nd class, Elec. T&D.

Young, Jackie C., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Accounting Services.



Radiation effects termed 'negligible'

A two-year study of radioactive material concentrations found around four nuclear power plants has shown that the power plant contribution of plutonium, radioactive iodine and other radioisotopes to the environment is negligible.

Those concentrations of radionuclides that were found in the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) funded study, almost all of which resulted from weapons testing fallout, were many orders of magnitude below maximum permissible concentrations.

The tests, conducted for EPRI by Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories, were carried out in soil, vegetation and air samples taken around nuclear plants in Alabama (Browns' Ferry), California (Rancho Seco) and Illinois (Zion and Quad Cities stations).

The principal focus was on transuranics (elements heavier than uranium) and on iodine. The latter was of special interest because of its volatility and potential for release from nuclear power plants, and because its very long half-life would allow it to accumulate in the environs of the plant if it were released.

However, radioactive iodine concentrations in soils around the power plants were indistinguishable from the background levels of radioactive iodine found in the soil as a result of fallout.

There are large differences in the ratio of plutonium and of cesium isotopes in fallout and in nuclear fuel. (Isotopes are different forms of an element, varying slightly in weight.) This made it possible to distinguish between radioactive elements deposited from fallout, and those originating within the nuclear plant. Use of this technique indicated that essentially all radioactive materials in soil

samples around nuclear plants were of fallout origin.

In only one soil sample did it appear certain that a small contribution to the plutonium and cesium was of reactor origin. In this case, identification was possible only because of a lower level of radionuclides than at other nearby sites, and in the normal background. However, the amount of reactor plutonium in the soil was about 9,000 times lower than the concentration limits proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Acid rain studies to continue

The nation's investor-owned electric utilities will participate actively in all aspects of acid rain research which pertain to electric utility industry operations, a spokesman told Congress on Oct. 20.



Al Courtney, director of air quality for Commonwealth Edison Company and co-chairman of the Acid Deposition Committee of the Utility Air Regulatory Group, also pledged full cooperation with the government in analyzing the facts and

developing cost-effective countermeasures where they are needed to protect the public interest.

Waste disposal need discussed

A spokesman for the nation's investor-owned electric utilities told Congress in early October that there is an "absolutely urgent need for nuclear waste management legislation."

Testifying before a joint hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Senate Energy Committee, Sherwood Smith, chairman of the Edison Electric Institute Policy Committee on Governmental Affairs and chairman of the board of the American Nuclear Energy Council, said, "Legislation is imperative for a number of fundamental reasons:

- To ensure that changes in administrations and in Congress will not result in repeated changes of direction and unnecessary delays in the program, as has occurred in the past.

- To define the role of the states and Indian tribes to avoid disputes and delay.

- To clarify the decision points at which preparation of an environmental impact statement, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, is appropriate."

Smith, chairman of the board, chief executive officer and president of Carolina Power and Light Company, said that there are three major issues of vital concern to the electric utilities. They are the federal program for a geologic repository, the need for interim spent fuel storage capacity and the means of financing the federal waste management program.

Improving Our Financial Health

Editor's Note: The following guest column was authored by Joseph L. Donnelly, executive vice president-Finance.

Last month I discussed bond ratings and the crucial need for Gulf States to finance a large construction program in the face of inflation and high interest rates.

Obviously, such information is vital to those of us working in Finance. I suspect, however, that a surveyor out on a right-of-way is considerably more interested in shooting a straight line and keeping his feet dry and warm than hearing someone grouse about whether the prime rate is 17 or 18 percent.

But, just as the surveyor's job is ultimately an important part of serving new customers or serving existing customers more reliably, the ability to finance at the lowest costs possible ultimately helps the customer through relatively lower bills.

As I mentioned in last month's column, one way to finance more cheaply is to have a high bond rating. If a utility has an AAA (the highest) rating, it can sell first mortgage bonds at an interest rate about 1.75 percent lower than a company such as GSU, which presently has an A rating. If an A-rated company borrows \$100 million, then it must pay back \$1.75 million more annually in interest than would a triple-A rated company. And that's a lot of money by any standard. Since the A bonds are considered a riskier investment, the investor demands a reward commensurate with his risk — and that reward comes in the form of a higher interest rate.

So how do we get a higher bond rating?

One way to do this is by reducing the amount of securities being sold and thus reducing the risk to the investor.

Another way to accomplish this is to improve operating efficiencies and increase cash flow.

The company is constantly looking for ways to cut the cost of doing business. For example, the salvage center saves the company about \$1 million annually by either reclaiming or auctioning off equipment that would otherwise have gone to the dump. Used crankcase oil is mixed with diesel fuel to burn in company trucks. Company mail that was previously sent first class is now sent by less expensive third class. Stockholder records are now maintained internally, meaning the company no longer pays other companies for that service.

Individually, such efforts may seem small, but they add up.

In addition, the company has taken strong steps to control and reduce construction costs.

Together, these efforts should have the effect of improving our cash flow.

Despite these and other company efforts to improve the financial health of Gulf States, a large part of that responsibility still lies with the regulators.

To be financially healthy, the company needs to earn currently an adequate return on investment. And, by allowing the company to recover currently the carrying cost of facilities that are under construction (sometimes described as putting construction work in the rate base), the regulators will enable the company to pay for a larger part of construction costs out of internal cash flow. Currently, our company is able to pay for only about 23 percent of our total construction costs out of internally generated cash flow. Ideally, 50 percent or more should be internally provided — a situation that would substantially reduce the securities that would have to be sold to finance the remainder of our construction.

This brief sketch of our efforts to improve our financial health contains one lesson. It is that a financially-able company can achieve better results than one which is hampered by high demands for capital and an inadequate credit standing.

It is a simple economics lesson — one that the company has taken seriously and one which should be considered equally seriously by the regulators.

Q.
A.

How much does pollution control cost?

The electric utility industry spent a staggering \$9.1 billion on pollution control in 1979 (the most recent year for which totals are available), according to the Council on Environmental Quality. As much as 20 cents of every dollar that residential customers pay for electricity now goes toward environmental costs.

